THE END OF THE FARMERS' YEAR OF TOIL.

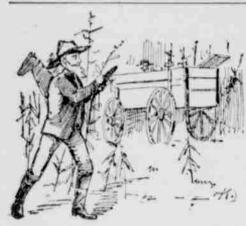
Old and New Ways of Raising a Crop-Maire Can Be Gathered Only by Hand -The Modern Way of Shocking Corn-Happy Husking Bees of the Olden Days

HE harvest of corn is here. An army of stalks, all straight and strong - jointed. stands in close ranks against the assault o famine. Each warrior bears above his crest a plume which waves defiance to a world. Each bears at his head a falchion is keen as a Damas blade, in a heath that came

from the workshop of time. Winter is coming. Across the hills the breezes blow

From fields of frost, from shrouds of snow Gaunt hunger is marching upon the people. This guard of honor, which has stood in reserve all summer, is massed in shocks, is mustered in cribs, is detached in cargoes and sent forward to the conflict. The battle rages as the nights lengthen. It grows fiercer as the sun crosses the line and starts north again. The scattering volleys of retreating squads fall on the air as winter changes to spring again, and victory crowns the conquering hosts of corn as tiny blades

in June shoot upward toward the sun. Do you remember corn-planting days? Boys, went barefooted then for the first time since that distant summer away beyond the winter, which lingered an age. Grass was green in the fence-rows; wood



THE MODERN WAY OF SHUCKING IT.

violets bloomed in the forest; the willow was thronged with foliage, and even the Tassels shoot from the verdant crown, oak and hard hickory had pushed tender and soft, silky pouches push from the leaves, just the size of squirrels' ears, side the crown of King Corn and the out through the rough, forbidding bark, scepter of his reign. Half over the field was a stretch of yellow sand, where the sun beat so fiercely labors of the farm life since those early that naked feet were burned. Not a days. Instead of the basket of seed and stump nor a stone in the field; all the the single hoes then following the wide stretch from fence to fence one marker a tailor-clad young man rides

CORN IS IN THE SHOCK. the season is short and much remains to be done before grim winter may be defied. A husking peg four inches long, fashbone, steel or hickory, and bound to the inner fingers with a strip of leather, arms all the men, but modern Ruths who help their brothers scorn such assistance and part the stubborn husks on three stiff, rheumatic legs, tracing the lines which the droppers must follow. School has been "took up," but boys have a holiday; they are needed at home



IMPROVISED CRIBS IN THE FIELD. And each one joins in the march across the yielding ground, dropping three grains in the cross of the marker. Men come behind with hoes and cover the corn with mellow earth, dexterously tacking them into beds from which they will rise enriched. A burial is going or in full faith of a resurrection, and with abundant assurance of return increased a thousandfold. Such dinners as they had in corn-planting time! Spring chick ens had just risen to the dignity of "fries," the garden contributed a vegetable zest, and oceans of sweet, fresh milk could be had for the asking. Back to the work in the afternoon when the glamor had worn off; persistent toil till the field was won, and all hands marched together from the farther corner, where all the scanty seed in the bottom of the baskets went to make a "king hill" to lead the rising grain.

Warmer suns shone on the little mounds where the grains were hidden; gentle dows and drenching rains softened the bony shell which held the germ, and broad fields spread away with bright green lines tracing the promise of a bounteous yield. A little later and the shovel plow, the hoe, and even the hand must loosen the dirt and nurse the roots - must destroy every life that could drain the fertility that belonged to corn-and, later still, when summer suns shone hottest, the rank green stalks rose to a man's height, hiding the ground and spreading long, broad blades to gather the good with which the air was charged.

Improved machinery has lessened the



AN OLD-TIME BUSKING BEE.

straight across the field at a target all bristling with stubs of steel and covstake, and shifting cogs and plates of ering the hand where attack is rudest. steel have sunk the seed and covered it. The wagon filled, if the field be large, is well with a speed unapproachable in a driven to the crib for emptying, while former day. As the slender stalks rise another takes its place, that the work up and ask for help against their one- may go on without abating. Along the mies, the weeds, prompt allies of famine, margins of the many corn fields light the same young man, with garments pens of rails are built, a dozen feet little stained by toil, can ride adown the square, often half a dozen adjoining, rows and tend in a day more than a score of men could have served before.

But when autumn comes-when frosts have laid a modest coat of gray upon the



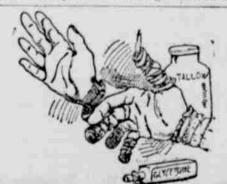
CETTING CORN.

fields of green-the giant toil stands well Intrenched. No machine can gather sorn. The same old methods Walter Raleigh saw employed by Indians three hundred years ago are used to-day, and seem to defy improvement. Cornstalks to the barn and husked, or shocks are will not all attain a uniform height; ears will not stand from the stem at the same angle or all put forth from the same side, and he who would gather corn must take his hands and husk it. When the ground Is white with frosts of October mornings, when velvet blades have turned to harsh simetars, when ears of corn once yielding to the touch are hard and rough as metal rasps, the poetry all goes out of farm life, and hovers like a dream about the pens of men who never won a dinher gathering corn. But the corn is made and must be garnered. There is no flinching, no turning back from irksome labor. Toll has hardened hands md inured all to rough labor. The wagon, made doubly capacious by great side-boards, is driven into the field at the hither side; the team and the wheels straddle one row, while on either side two or three more are taken by the huskers. The weakest worker in the party is as- help with the work and to traffic in the eigned to the task of following the raciest gossip of the realm. This cusbroken stalks, gathering the grain, and ing bee. stossing it into the retreating vehicle. Farmers' girls are often impressed into

which serve to house the crop till it is consumed by stock or until a price is offered that can tempt the farmer.

But when that last wagon-load goes creaking from the field, forcing a progress across the crackling stalks, when the waiting and the toll of the year are summed in the words, "The harvest is won," a consciousness of hard work well done brings somewhat of reward. The spirits rise with the end in view. The memories of the pleasant things come back again. The dust, the wounds, the bleeding fingers, are forgotten. The girls sit down and pick the Spanish needles from their skirts, dismiss the harvest past and talk of other harvests of the heart.

But, maybe, the grass was short this year, hay is scarce and corn fodder will be in strong demand. If so, the rustic force attacks the withering crop, each man folding a hill in his left arm, while with his right he smites the stalks near the roots, severing them at a blow with a steel blade made of a broken sevihe or bought at the store in all the glory of red paint. Ten hills square, or a hundred, are gathered in the shocks, which rest as a base against a central four, whose heads are bent and bound together like the ragged tent-poles of a wigwam. Later in the season this fodder is hauled broken open in mild moonlight nights of late fall, and around each heap, ravaging the stalks of their wealth of grain, gather the youth of the neighborhood to



THE REGINNING AND THE END OF THE SHUCK ING SEASON.

Formerly corn was not husked, but "pulled," shucks and all, and hauled to the service in corn gathering time, for the barn to be heaped up in a great pile a light bill just the same.

until such time as farmers chose. Then as winter drew on husking-bees were in order. Lads and lasses in the neighborhood were bidden to the festival. They improvised seats of boxes, pails and inverted baskets. "Partners" was the

rule, and when any youth found an ear of red corn he was entitled of right to a kiss from his companion. Cider served with a free hand and fried cakes and pumpkin pie rewarded the toilers. After the "bee" was over girls must be taken home. Happy the youth if the moon had gone down, if the way were long and the bridges narrow. And happy the mald if the man who led her through that night's shadows proved all that her fancy promised for him. Her granddaughters know no husking bees, and arts acquired in distant schools must take the place of bright red ears of corn. Woman in Office.

A woman behind an official deak is an awe-inspiring object to the most courageous man in existence; she is her sex plus authority, Charlotte Cor-day and Minerva combined. She is not the more imposing by reason of her office, but the office is imposing because she fills it, because the office is herself. Such a woman may insist on anything unhindered of man. He is even content, at her command, to concede that the earth is flat for the time being. He appears before so much majesty in a commanding attitude; he waits her pleasure patiently, not dar-ing to murmur at delay. For these reasons the official woman does not go out of her way to annoy or to torture detail: man; she accepts him as a worm, and because he is weak she refrains from treading on him, and goes no further than to gorgonize him with her Tennysonian "stony stare." It is for members of her own sex that she reserves her more aggressive weapons. man, the worm, observes, and after awhile he retaliates by saying that a woman in office cannot escape from herself. She refuses to see, or cannot ses, any difference between a free, if tax-paying, public and her own family circle. She carries her home characteristics into public affairs, regarding men as the possessors of obnoxious latch keys, and women as the victims of them. Her clients are punished for her toothache and responsible for her dyspepsia. That she is compelled to hold lowly office is the fault of the world, and the world must suffer for it. She knows that she is better than other women, and demonstrates her superiority to anticipate their doubt, or the doubt that she has invented for them. In all probability these faults -light ones, after all, when compared with some of the offenses of the male official-will be remedied; but until they are, women in office will be a thorn in the flesh of women out of olice.

The Sex Are Queer.

There were four passengers of us who got off at a country junction to wait two hours for the train on the other line-two men and two women. None of us had ever seen each other before. The station was a little better than a barn, with no house nearer than a quarter of a mile. The women gave each other a look and entered the waiting-:oom, where they sat down as far apart as possible.

"Well, old boy," remarked the strange man to me. "Have a smoke?" "You bet."

And in five minutes we were well acquainted, and playing eachre under the shadow of a box-car. He didn't take me for a thief, and I never susnected him of murder, and the two hours went by in a hurry.

Not so in the depot, however. For the first half hour the two women glared at each other. Neither would speak first. Each was afraid of the other. One looked out into a turnip field, and the other into a swamp. Now and then one or the other mustered up courage to approach the door and look out, but always to return to her seat again. Only one had a watch. She consulted it every five minutes, but the other dared not ask her what time it was. As an offset, however, a wooden pail, half full of warm water, stood near her, and though the other lady was dying for a drink she dared not go over to the pail. One had a novel, and the other had a bundle of shells and curiosities, and they could have chatted and visited and read and had a good time. But they dared not. They had not been introduced. What an awful thing if they had spoken and acted civilized, and then one had found out that the other was only a hired girl .-New York Sun.

The Way to Do It.

The Marion County (Ky.) Gazette recently printed the following para-"We promised our readers to publish the names of all preachers who should get drunk from that time forward. Little did we think that in so short a time we would have to give the public the sad intelligence which is now being rumored about the town, and, so far as we can learn, not denied, that Rev. - was drunk last Tuesday. We should be pleased to set the reverend gentleman right if he is falsely accused, and we are willing to do all in our power to clear him of the disgrace which has fallen upon him; but if these rumors are true the Church of God ought not to be imposed upon by him." The paragraph indicates a deplorable decadence of religion in the back districts of Kentucky; but it also indicates that public sentiment is healthy enough to cure the evil in time. While the preachers are drinking too much whisky, and, without doubt, quarreling over their respective claims to divine authority. the editor comes in with his lash and begins the work of clearing out the temple of those who profane it.

A Character. The following testimonial was given

to an illiterate servant girl: This is to certify that the bearer has been in my service for one year less eleven months. During this time I found her to be diligent, at the front door; temperate, at her work; attentive, to herself; prompt, at excuses; amiable, towards young tradesmen; fatihful, to the policeman; and honest, when everything was safe under lock and key."-Pick-Me-Up.

A gas account may be heavy, butit's

INTERESTING FACTS CONCERN-ING CENTRAL AMERICA.

A Country Four Times as Large as Illinois - With a Wonderfully Fertile Soil and Boundless Natural Resources. It Presents an Inviting Field for the Enterprising

Central America is that portion of

North America lying between the north boundary of the state of Panama and the south boundary of Mexico, and is about 900 miles long, with greatly varying width. In area it is about as large as either France or Spain or Germany, or four times the size of the State of Alabama, or a little more than three and a half times the size of Illinois. It has a population of 3,025,000. If we include that portion of the state of Panama north of the Isthmus, the area of Central America is four times that of the State of Illinois. It is a mountainous region, and a large part of it is covered with dense and valuable timber. The people are chiefly of Indian and Spanish-Indian stock. Nearly all the metals abound, and the lands are very fertile. There is very little capital in the country. It could readily be made to support fifteen times its present population. The states comprising this region are Guatemala, Honduras, British Honduras (Belize), San Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica, of which the following is some information in CENTRAL AMERICAN STATES.

square miles. 51,000 Names of States. unternals..... Honduras British Honduras (Belize). Conta Rica ...

are only 200,000 white people in the his end was accomplished by gout, the

against the double doors, there to watt | SOUTHERN NEIGHBORS. | there are now 136 miles of railway

there, composed of four short lines. With these facts before us how can we doubt that Central America is the seat of a future empire? Its natural resources and the fertility of its soil far exceed those of France or Spain. The day is rapidly nearing when we shall be connected with this garden spot by a railway which will be extended from Mexico to meet, by way of the Isthmus, the lines in South America, and the feeders of this great trunk line will bring the resources of Central America within easy reach. Then the magic of capital and directive ability will create wealth with a dazzling rapidity which will bring comfort and prosperity to a new nation which in a few decades may have a population equal to that of France. There is no field to-day more inviting for enterprise than Central America, nor one which railroads would develop DUANE DOTY. more rapidly.

Rich Men's Possible Woes. "The very nich people are to be pitied," said a well-known capitalist and clubman the other day to a New York correspondent of the Kansas City Star. "When a man once gets a large fortune there is no emolument worth striving for, for if he tries and succeeds in winning it the world says that his conflict was made easy by his wealth. If he has political aspirations he is accused of purchasing votes and favor. If he wants to shine in literature it is declared that he hires an author to write his books. He is not permitted to have an honest love for art, for when popula-tion. he becomes a collector it is said that he buys pictures by the yard and statuary as though it were cheese. John Jacob Astor, who died recently, could have been Minister to England under 230,030 President Hayes, but he refused the 3,025,000 position because he knew the pation The state of Guatemala is just the would declare that it was given in resize of Alabama, having an area of ward for his contribution to the cam-51,000 square miles and a population paign fund. In his whole life John of 1,300,000. Its capital, of the same Jacob Astor was nothing more than a name, has a population of 60,000. There | real estate agent on a large scale, and

state, the great majority being Indi- bane of all rich men. Gout is the inaus. Sheep, cows, horses, goats and evitable result of affluence. It is good pigs are common, and corn, beans, rice. food and what is now called good cookwheat, sugar, coffee (\$10,000,000 worth ing that produces gout, and the man of coffee was exported in 1889), and of large means is sure to have both. HONDURAS

MAP OF CENTRAL AMERICA.

tobacco are raised. There is an abun- Mr. Astor was what might be called a dance of lead in the state, as well as quiet liver, that is he was perfectly silver and other metals, but little has temperate in his appetites. Besides been done in mining. It could easily this he was an extraordinarily strong sustain a population as large as that youth and began his life of luxury with of the State of New York. Agricul- a constitution of iron. But the steady, turally it is far superior to the Em- unbroken comforts and plenitudes of pire State. The climate is said to be his existence did their work, and he very healthful. As yet little if any died at sixty-eight, looking as hearty manufacturing is done in Gentral as any man in New York. It has some-America, though Guatemala now has times been observed that gout is a

one cotton mill (April 12, 1890). is the same size as the State of New the luxurious men in New York, and York, and has a population of 500,000, nearly every club window has a big red-Almost every variety of fruit is raised; faced man in it who is haunted by the fish, turtle and wild fowl are abun- realization that he may be called to dant. This state ranks high in its, his reckoning at any moment. If these native mineral wealth, silver, gold and | men had ever been tempted into the copper existing in large quantities; fields of endeavor and taken pot-luck zinc and tin have also been found. The with the regular toilers of the earth inhabitants are chiefly of the Indian they would be all right, but the smooth type. There is no capital in the coun- elegance of doing nothing that they try, but it offers untold opportunities have indulged in, together with the for mining, manufacturing and intelli- wines and spiced delicacies that have gent agriculture.

size of the State of New Hampshire, condition as those geese that we make but has a small population of 25,000, into pates de fois gras. I advise the many of them being negroes who were originally brought there as slaves. A few English residents control the busi- The richer they are the more unhappy ness of the settled portions of this ter- they are. They cannot go into the ritory, and raise some sugar, and ship struggle for fame, they mistrust the immense quantities of mahogany lum- motives of every new acquaintance, ber to all parts of the world, and this and they invariably have the gout, lumber is inexhaustible in Central You will not find a more sorrowful America.

about as large as the State of Massa- they are the very richest citizens we chusetts, and has a population of 650,- have. In fact, I am a pretty sad dog 000, and is the most densely peopled myself." portion of Central America. Indigo has long been a leading article of export, though coffee is now the chief product exported. The cultivation of tobacco and sugar is also engaged in. Like the other States of this region, there is a woful lack of money with which to do business of any kind.

The republic of Nicaragua is the size of the State of Georgia, and contains a population of only 400,000. The soil is so fertile and the climate so favorable to rapid vegetable growth that as many as four crops of corn have been raised in one year upon the same ground, and two or three crops of vegetables a year are common. Cattle extensively exported. Only 30,000 of the people are classed as white.

The republic of Costa Rica is twice as large as Belgium, or twice the size of the State of Maryland, and has a population of only 200,000, while Belgium has a population of nearly to you. My face is just raw." 6,000,000. The people here are largely of Spanish descent. The land is fertility itself. Coffee is cultivated and exported, and is the present chief source of wealth, there being 26,000,-000 coffee trees on 7,600 farms, and cotton, tobacco, and indigo could be grown in endless quantities. One American, Mr. M. C. Keith, ships a million bunches of bananas annually from Limon to New Orleans. Gold, silver, copper, iron, nickel, zinc, and lead are found, but are undeveloped. There is no manufacturing, though some little good can not be sifted.

fashionable ailment, but in reality it is The state or republic of Honduras a prevalent and deadly disease among formed their sustenance, has put them British Honduras, or Balize, is the into pretty much the same physical poor not to envy the rich. I will wager that they are as unhappy as anybody. looking set of men in New York than The republic of San Salvador is the ones that belong to my club. And

Kissing a Girl Without Having Been Shaved. He passed last Sunday evening with

a number of young lady friends. "I felt sure," said he, "that there was one of them who wanted very badly to be kissed, and I made up my mind to accommodate her if I got a chance. It came when I got up to go. The lady went with me to the door. In the semi-darkness of the hall I put my arm around her gently, turned her flower face up to mine and, holding her fast, pressed my face to her cheeks, kissing her on the forehead, the eyessuch eyes they are -- and the tose-red lips. There was a stifled scream and of all kinds flourish here, and hides are I saw that she was genuinely in-

dignant. "'I-I beg your pardon,' I stam-

mered. " 'Mr. Jones,' snapped she, 'if you ever come here again without having peen shaved for a week I'll never speak

A SIMPLE cough remedy is made of an ounce of flaxseed boiled in a pint of water, a little honey added, an ounce of rock candy and the juice of three lemons, the whole mixed and boiled well.

THERE is an inmate of the Georgia State Lunatic Asylum who imagines in his insanity that he is a grain of corn. He will not go into the yard, fearing the chickens will eat him.

It's a bad batch of evil from which

LINCOLN'S MELANCHOLY

Those who saw much of A braham Lincoln during the later years of his life were greatly impressed with the expression of profound melancholy his face always were in repose.

Mr. Lincoln was of a reculiarly sym-pathetic and kindly nature. These strong pathetic and kindly nature. These strong characteristics influenced, very happily, as it proved, his entire political career. They would not seem, at first glance, to be efficient aids to political success; but in the peculiar emergency which Lincoln, in the providence of God, was called upon to meet, no vessel of common clay could possibly have become the schosen of the Lord."

Those acquainted with him from boyhood knew that early grids tinged his whole life with sadness. His partner in the grocery business at Salem was "Uncle" tilly Green, of Tallula, Ill., who used at night when the customers were few, to hold the grammar

customers were few, to hold the grammar while Lincoln recited his lessons. It was to his sympathetic ear Lincoln told the story of his love for sweet Ann Rutlidge; and he in return, offered what comfort he could when poor Ann died, and Lincoln

great heart nearly broke.

"After Ann died," says "Uncle" Billy, "on stormy nights when the wind blew the rain against the roof. Abe would set that in the grocery, his elbows on his knees, his face in his bands, and the tears runnin' through his fingers. I hated to see him feel bad, an' I'd say. 'Abe don't cry;' an' he'd look up an' say. 'I can't help it, Bill, the rain's a fallin'

There are many who can sympathize with this overpowering grief, as they think of a lost loved one, when "the rain's a fallin' on her." What adds polynamey to the grief some times is the thought that the lost one

might have been saved.

Fortunate, indeed, is William Johnson, of Corona, L. I., a builder, who writes June 28. 1800: "Last February, on returning from church one night, my daughter complained of having a pain in her ankle. The pain gradually extended until her entire limb was swollen and very painful to the touch We called a physician, who, after careful examination, pronounced it disease of the kidneys of long standing. All we could do did not seem to benefit her until we tried Warner's Safe Cure; from the first she commenced to improve. When she commerced taking it she could not turn over in bed, and could just move her hands a little, but to-day she is as well as she ever was. believe I owe the recovery of my daughter

An Important Correction.

"You will want to put the new edition of our geography into your schools" remarked the publisher's agent to the President of a school board.

"But we changed geographies only last spring," protested the school offi "Yes, I know that; but we want to

keep up with the times, don't you?" "Yes, I suppose so."

"Then you'll have to have our new edition, for it is the only geography publihehed which has Heligoland down as a German possession."

"It is not intellectual work that injures the brain," says the London Hospital, "but emotional excitement, Most men can stand the severest thought and study of which their brains are capable, and be none the worse for it; for neither thought nor study interferes with the recuperative influence of sleep. It is ambition, auxiety and disappointment, the hopes and fears, the loves and hates of our lives, that wear out our nervous system and endanger the balance of the brain."-Dr. Foote's Health Monthly.

Never Neglect a Cold.

Dr. Austin Flint says in the Forum: "It is probable that a person with an Inherited t-udency to consumption would never de-velop the disease if he could be protected against infection with the tubercle bacillus In the light of modern discoveries con-sumption can no longer be regarded as an incurable disease." It is no exaggeration to say that Kemp's Balsam, when taken in time, has saved many from consumption. At all druggists'; 50c and \$1. Sample bottle

A WOMAN factory inspector in Philadelphia has made 400 inspections during her service of six months. In nine cases out of ten she found that the operatives did not know where fire escapes were.

New York also suffers from the flea pest. The up-town private dwellings and apartment houses are overrun by the noxious insects just as they were a vent ago.

Scrofula Humor

by Hood's Sarsaparilla. Before she was six months old she had seven running scrofula seres. Two physicians were called, but they gave us no hope, One of them advised the amputation of one of her fingers, to which we refused assent. On giving her Hood's Sarsaparilla, marked improvement was noticed, and by a continued use of it her recovery was complete. She is now seven years old, strong and healthy." B. C. Jones, Alna, Lincoln Co., Me.

Hood's Sarsaparilla Sold by all druggists. \$1; six for \$5. Prepared only

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other external pain, a few applications rubbed on by hand act like magic, causing the pain to instantly stop.

For Congestions, Colds, Bronchitis, Pneu-monia, Inflammations, Rheumatism, Neural-gia, Lumbago, Sciatica, more thorough and repeated applications are necessary.

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